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PHOTO/TOM BARNETT

High jinks for hospital

Zaynah dances for Paul Raimer at the Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation gala dinner at Le Parc Banquet and Convention Centre Friday. The event, themed Midnight at the Oasis, raised more than \$300,000 for the hospital's new MRI.

High school principal applauds drug arrest

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE
Staff Writer

An drug investigation at Stouffville District Secondary School led police to the home of a Claremont woman suspected of supplying dope to youth in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Following up tips received in early March, York Regional Police began an investigation into the sale of marijuana and other controlled substances to teenagers in the area.

The investigation led to a home in the nearby village of Claremont in Durham

Region where officers found a gun, marijuana and crack cocaine.

CLAREMONT WOMAN CHARGED

A 45-year-old Claremont woman was charged with two counts of possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking, two counts of possession of a controlled substance and unauthorized possession of a restricted weapon.

School staff were aware of the investigation and are ecstatic an arrest has been made, Principal Arlene Smith said.

"We have zero tolerance for drugs and total contempt for those selling drugs," she said.

Despite the investigation, Stouffville Secondary has no more of a drug issue than any other school, Ms Smith added.

"If you look at any school across the province you'll find students taking drugs. Yes we have students that take drugs, but I don't think we have more of a drug problem than any other school," Ms Smith said.

"We are just happy to see the police making an arrest. We cheer them on."

MAYOR FIGHTS BACK TEARS, RIPS 'WEAK POLITICIANS'

TOWN HALL THEATRE REJECTED

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

More than 120 people came to Whitchurch-Stouffville council Tuesday evening hoping a theatre in Stouffville's old town hall would finally be launched.

After an emotional four hours, that included enthusiastic applause, cat calls and a mayor left fighting back tears, they left quietly.

The theatre in the old town hall had been nixed.

Instead, council decided to go with a motion put forward by Councillor Susanne Hilton that included having town staff report on alternate uses for 19 Civic Ave.

OTHER DOWNTOWN SITES

The report would also look at revitalizing the downtown core, assessing the municipality's role in arts and culture and recommending where a performing arts centre could be located in downtown Stouffville.

Just before council's decision, Mr. Sherban stood and applauded the residents who had come out to support this concept. Many in the audience then stood and applauded the mayor.

At first fighting back tears, she told councillors, "I am tired of working with weak politicians who will not make decisions in regards to hard decisions."

Noting that decisions had been made in the past to cover the operating costs of other facilities such as the indoor pool, the library and the arena, "you cannot make a decision on \$150,000 (in annual operating

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